

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10068 301042Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03

DLOS-07 COA-02 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 300900Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2957

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10068

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN, BG

SUBJ: INDIAN AND BANGLADESH OFFSHORE WATERS

REF: NEW DELHI 7453

1. ON JULY 24, MINATT DISCUSSED WITH DR. GOPAL RAMASWAMY, GOI PETROLEUM MINISTRY CHIEF OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, STATUS OF INDO/BANGLADESH OFFSHORE BOUNDARY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ONCE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ABOUT JULY 1 (REFTEL). WITH SOME DISCOMFORT, RAMASWAMY CONCEDED THAT GOI/BDG "TECHNICAL LEVEL" TALKS HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL POSSIBLY SEPTEMBER.

2. RAMASWAMY SAID THAT, AT THE OUTSET OF DISCUSSION PLANNING, NO ONE (ON THE INDIAN TEAM, AT LEAST) GAVE SUFFICIENT THOUGHT TO THE EFFECT THE ON-GOING CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE, WOULD HAVE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSED DACCA MEETINGS -- PERSONNEL-WISE. REPORTEDLY, INDIA'S

NEGOTIATORS WILL INCLUDE KEY PERSONNEL FROM THE GOI'S NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE, OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION AND THE PETROLEUM MINISTRY. ALL ARE CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED IN CARACAS (INDEED RAMASWAMY, TOO, DEPARTED NEW DELHI FOR CARACAS JULY 25), AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNAVAILABLE FOR GOI/BDG OFFSHORE BOUNDARY MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER THE LOS CONFERENCE TERMINATES.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SOME ADDITIONAL THINKING ALSO AS TO WHEN OFFSHORE SEISMIC WORK SHOULD BEGIN IN THE BAY OF BENGAL. RAMASWAMY SAID THAT METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS WARN AGAINST POST-MONSOON CYCLONIC STORMS IN THAT AREA THROUGH OCTOBER ANNUALLY. WITH THIS IN VIEW, AND WITH GOI/BDG BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS ALSO DELAYED, THE OFFSHORE CONTRACTOR (NATOMAS/CARLSBERG) WILL BE PERMITTED TO POSTPONE FIRST PHASE SEISMIC SURVEYS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1974 IF THE AMERICAN GROUP SO DESIRES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU ADVISED OF INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS REGARD.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, RESEARCH, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, BUSINESS FIRMS, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE10068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740206-0804
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974076/aaaaaext.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 7453
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN AND BANGLADESH OFFSHORE WATERS
TAGS: ENRG, IN, BG, US, (RAMASWAMY, GOPAL)
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005